(c) what steps are being taken by Government to safeguard the future of those children who will require to spend their lives in Indian environment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) Central Tibetan Schools have been established exclusively for imparting education to the children of Tibetan refugees and to preserve their culture and heritage & to maintain their identity. In these schools Hindi is being taught as a subject from class I to V under informal arrangements for Indian students. These students are studying Hindi as a compulsory subject from class VI to class X and as an optional subject in classes XI and XII.

Representation of Hindi writers in World Hindi Conference

2166. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian delegation to the recent World Hindi Conference at Surinam did not represent large sections of Hindi writers;

(b) whether there was a strong protest by several writers in this regard; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) As per information received from the Ministry of External Affairs, it is not true that Indian delegation did not represent large sections of Hindi writers in the Seventh World Hindi Conference held in Surinam.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Female literacy rate in Orissa

2167. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the female literacy rate in Orissa;

(b) the reasons for low female literacy rate in some districts of Orissa; and

(c) the fresh steps proposed to be taken in consultation and coordination with the State Government of Orissa to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) As per Census of India 2001 the female literacy rate in Orissa is 50.97%.

(b) The reasons for low female literacy in some districts of Orissa include poverty and economic backwardness, poor communication and geographical isolation and gender based inequality.

(c) A new scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has been started for universalisation of elementary education in a mission mode with district as a focus. SSA is to provide useful and relevant elementary education for all children in 6-14 age-group by 2010.

National literacy Mission has identified certain districts in Orissa having low female literacy and formulated a special project for female literacy in consultation with the State Government. The project aims at improving literacy of adult non-literate women in the age group of 15-35 in the identified districts with active involvement of Non-Governmental Organisations.

UNESCO Doot

2168. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Hindi Directorate of the Ministry published two lakh copies of "UNESCO Doot" during 1996-2001, whose one lakh and thirty six thousand copies remain uncirculated;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken against those responsible for non-circulation of the said book to school children on time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Central Hindi Directorate (CHD) has reported that about 5000 copies of UNESCO Doot are still in the stock as on date. Action is being taken to utilize the uncirculated copies in the stock and will be liquidated very soon.